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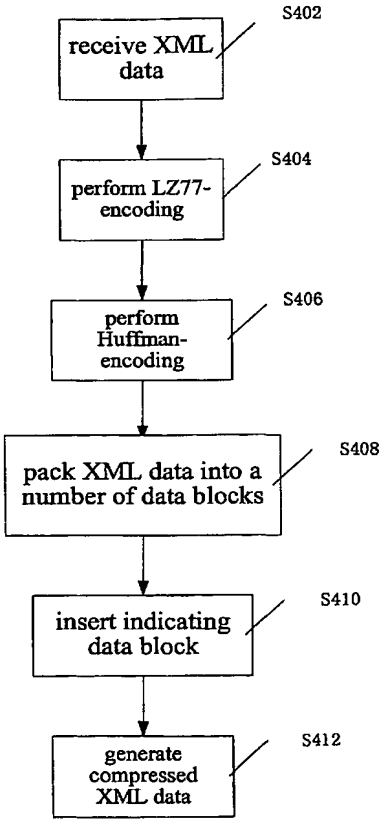
(54) Title: RAPIDLY QUERYABLE DATA COMPRESSION FORMAT FOR XML FILES



(57) Abstract: A method and device for XML compression with easy querying are provided. An XML file is parsed with a SAX-parser, useless characters such as tabulators and white spaces are removed, indicating data marks are inserted, LZ-77 compression is applied, and finally the data are Huffman-encoded and packed in data blocks. The indicating marks are used to search in the compresed file for tags or literals in the document, based e.g. on alphabetical order. The indicating marks consist of a special character such as a tab and an XML comment; hence they are XML-compatible. The organization of the compressed file in independent data blocks facilitates rapid querying and partial decompression of the compressed file.

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